



**WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, November 17, 2004, for the purpose of holding a stakeholder meeting with NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC).**

The meeting began at 8:03 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Kristen Ward, Community Planner; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: From Goddard Space Flight Center—Dr. Edward J. Weiler, Director, Barbara Cherry, Communications, Nina Harris, Public Affairs, Diane Williams, Management Operations, Terry Spagnuolo, Safety and Health, Phillip Holloway, Facilities Management, William Holley, Facilities and Engineering; Sheldon Goldberg, Greenbelt East Advisory Committee; Steve Walter, Community Council; a representative of the Glenn Dale Citizens Association; and Virginia Beauchamp, the Greenbelt News Review.

Dr. Weiler spoke briefly about his personal background and how he came to be at NASA and the GSFC. He talked about the President's Exploration Vision and the specific responsibilities that would fall to Goddard under this initiative, including, for example, the robotic moon vision, the robotics component of the long-term effort to take humans to Mars, and the Hubble Space Telescope. Regarding the FY 2005 budget, which is still on continuing resolution, he said it is the Senate, not the House, version that benefits NASA. With regard to space exploration, he stated his strong belief that Goddard is a science center and that the purpose of space exploration is scientific investigation, not tourism.

Dr. Weiler said he had concluded since coming to GSFC that it was in need of a more structured and assertive public relations program to raise its visibility with Congress and the citizens and to disseminate better information on where it is and what it does. He said he himself had not realized, for example, that Goddard works actively with the Forest Service on the technology to identify forest fires and with NOAA on weather prediction. He said that is just the beginning of an extensive list of things no one knows Goddard does.

Dr. Weiler also stressed GSFC's educational mission as being a significant commitment for him, and he spoke of the critical need to bring more U.S. students into the pipeline of science and engineering education.

In terms of local impact, he said that, unlike some NASA centers, GSFC has enough programmatic activity to maintain its current employees should the Mikulski version of

the budget be passed. At this point, GSFC also brings 5,400 contractors into the Greenbelt area who work on their campus and another 2,000-3,000 who are located off campus. In FY 2004, he said they had a \$2.5 billion budget; \$2.4 billion is requested for FY 2005.

Mr. Holley presented an update on the Master Plan, which was approved in 2002. He said one of the primary goals is to connect the two halves of the campus by realigning Soil Conservation Road and establishing "neighborhoods" of local activity. The road work is projected for 2005-2006.

Mayor Davis raised some questions regarding the location of the contractor area outside of the GSFC security perimeter. Mr. Holley said plans for that were not committed yet but that one goal was to allow for some private development. The Mayor asked that the City be kept apprised of the plans for this area, since there may be an impact on commercial office space in the City. Mr. Holloway commented that there might be a positive economic effect on Greenbelt as well because the expectation is that new contractors and collaborators will be brought in, adding to the total rather than simply moving them on campus from off campus.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern that some of the changes would have more environmental impact than necessary. He said in the past the City had been promised that there would be minimal environmental impact. There followed some discussion of various mitigation actions being explored. Ms. Spagnuolo said they expected to reforest on a 1:1 basis. Mr. Holloway said there are also areas currently mowed that they intend to let go to meadow. Mr. Holley said there is a half-acre of wetland to be lost in the area where the southbound road swings east but they will replace it with an acre nearby. He said the entire road has forest impacts.

Mayor Davis said the City wants to receive the specific data on the impacts on both wetlands and woodlands, as well as any intended mitigations. She said these things had been discussed before, but the City "has never gotten the numbers." Ms. Ward asked that this information be shared with the Department of Planning and Community Development as well.

Mayor Davis also emphasized the City's concern with the preservation of the buffer on GSFC's west/northwest border, which the City views as part of its "green belt." She said the City would be pleased to acquire it if NASA were ever willing to let it go, but Mr. Holloway pointed out that this buffer is critical to Goddard as well, since it includes the easements for all their power lines.

Mayor Davis thanked Dr. Weiler and all the Goddard staff members for coming.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher

City Clerk

Informational items:

Mr. McLaughlin noted that October 7 was the preferred date for the next 4 Cities meeting. Ms. Mach noted she got a complaint about phone book delivery in Greenbelt Homes (GHI). She noted that GHI is working on the matter. Mr. Herling advised about a new company moving to Greenbelt as reported in the Washington Post and his work with the Maryland Municipal League Communications Committee. Mayor Davis reported on conversations related planning and zoning and her work on the MML legislative committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael McLaughlin  
City Manager